




ASC 2021

Favoring Crime Desistance and Social and Community (Re)integration of Offenders Through Intersectoral Partnerships



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Young adults under judicial control

- In Canada, in 2013-2014 (Statistique Canada, 2015):
 - 58% incarcerated in provincial and federal prisons were youth.
 - Delinquency trajectories (Piquero, 2008; Yessine et Bonta, 201):
 - Initiation at adolescence and progress until their late thirties.
 - Many concomitant problems: (Barry, 2010; Cacho et al., 2020; Osgood et al., 2010)
 - Addiction;
 - Social precarity (i.e. poverty, homelessness);
 - Mental health;
 - Risky behaviour.
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- Many needs (Cacho et al., 2020):
 - School;
 - Work;
 - Housing.

Interventions should be multidimensional

(Bérard, 2015)



Social and community (re)integration



Social and community (re)integration is a “long-term, multidimensional, individualized adaptation process that is not complete until the person [subject to judicial control] participates in all aspects of life in the society and community where [he/she] is evolving and for which [he/she] has developed a sense of belonging”

— Bérard, 2015, p.5



From “What works” ...

- Rehabilitation could reduce the risk of recidivism by 10 to 40% (Farrington & Ttofi, 2011; Hopkins & Wickson, 2013; Worling & Langton, 2014)
- Attempted to identify the risk and protective factors based on actuarial tools (Farrington & Ttofi, 2011; Hopkins & Wickson, 2013; Worling & Langton, 2014)
- Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model (Andrews & Bonta, 2006):
 - Risk: Adapting the level of services to the delinquent's risk of recidivism;
 - Need: Evaluating and targeting the criminogenic factors;
 - Responsivity: Adopting effective intervention strategies based on the best practices (i.e. cognitive behavioral approach).

This model focuses on flaws (recidivism, risk, and risk factors), its extensive, systematic application to all people having committed offenses, and its lack of consideration for responding to the individuals' primary or non-criminogenic needs.

... to “How it works”

- Focus not so much on those who have persisted in delinquency, **but rather on those who have desisted** (Craig, 2015; F.-Dufour, Brassard, & Martel, 2016; Maruna & LeBel, 2012):
 - Those who have put an end to a period of transgressional behavior (Farrall, 2012, p. 13).



Crime desistance

(Bottoms & Shapland, 2016; Burnett & Maruna, 2004)

Process through which people subject to judicial control have progressively engaged in adopting behaviors that comply with the law and in permanently stopping their criminal activities



From “What works” to “How it works”

- What works = to prevent risk and protect the community
 - How it works = to facilitate *desistance* by providing support to people who have committed offenses
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Crime desistance

Structural theory

- Inspired by reflections of authors like Hirschi (1969):
 - Conceives that crime occurs when an individual has broken off from the social structure.
- Contributions of Sampson and Laub (1993):
 - Desistance occurs when new ties with society are created (i.e. new job, a study program, or a marriage);
 - Regeneration of the social fabric.

Crime desistance

Cognitive change theory

- Developed in response to the structural perspective (Paternoster & Bushway, 2009);
- Reduces the scope of the people's actions to default choices;
- Focuses on the agency of the actors:
 - Their ability to set objectives and make decisions to achieve them.
- The person has been previously opened to go through a transformation (Bottoms & Shapland, 2011; Maruna, 2001; Skardhamar & Savalainen, 2014):
 - First step: in the cognitive transformation process;
 - Second step: the “hooks of change”.
 - Third step: begin to define his own identity

Crime desistance

Strain-social support theory

- Desistance process doesn't necessarily involve conscious decisions = third explanation of the factors and mechanisms (Laub & Sampson, 2009);
- Social structure may have an influence on the actor's adoption of prosocial behaviors (Cid & Marti, 2015; Cullen, 1994);
- Importance of documenting and identifying the obstacles and the factors that facilitate desistance (Farrall, 2002; Lebel et al., 2008).

Crime desistance

Morphogenic theory

- Takes into account both people's intentions and their social environment (Archer, 1995);
- Focuses on the dynamics and interdependence of the relationships between society and the individuals (F.-Dufour et al., 2016);
- Considers multiples dimensions, non-linear process (F.-Dufour et al., 2016):
 - Starting points, unfavorable positions, costs of opportunities, personal identities, social identities.



Crime desistance

- Importance of adopting an inclusive posture;
- Desistance can be viewed as a transitory period during which actions, relationships, and identity undergo changes;
- Three types of desistance:
 - Primary;
 - Secondary;
 - Tertiary.



Crime desistance

Primary desistance



The person with a criminal history no longer commits any offenses. This is reflected in the person's behaviors.

Secondary desistance

The person with a criminal history changes his/her self-perception and self-definition. This is reflected in the way the person recounts his/her life trajectory.

Tertiary desistance

Society observes an identity change in the person desisting. This is reflected in the ways that friends, family, and the community perceive the person.



Assisted desistance

- Interventions that help people with criminal history remain on their desistance trajectory (King, 2013);
- Caseworkers must participate in transforming the social, contextual, normative, and psychological conditions (F.-Dufour & Brassard, 2014; McNeill, 2009):
 - Focus on the motivations, opportunities, and capacities of these people to desist from crime.



It's possible only **IF** a relationship is developed based on listening and talking

Rehabilitation, reentry and (re)integration

- **Rehabilitation** : “**Set of strategies and programs** to support the person during his/her incarceration” (Raynor & Robinson, 2005; Robinson & Crow, 2009);
- **Reentry** : “**Moment** when the person leaves the prison and is back to society” (Raynor & Robinson, 2005; Robinson & Crow, 2009);
- **Reintegration** : “**Process of adaptation** where the person takes back its place in the society and becomes (or becomes again) a citizen” (Raynor & Robinson, 2005; Robinson & Crow, 2009).



Social and community(re)integration

- Reintegration is the end point of a rehabilitation process during which the citizen relearns the principles of reciprocity toward his/her community and honored them by reclaiming them (McNeill, 2018);
 - 4 different forms of rehabilitation:
 - Personal;
 - Judiciary;
 - Moral and political;
 - Social.
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Social and community(re)integration

Personal rehabilitation

Solidification of the identity of the offender as a person who is desisting through the acquisition and development of new skills, reinforcement of the motivations, and examination of his/her value system.

Judiciary rehabilitation

Requalification of the offender as a citizen through the restoration of his/her legal status.

Moral and political rehabilitation

Dialogue where citizens, civil society, and the state negotiate conditions of retribution or of remedy that appear fair to them.

Social rehabilitation

Work by the community to enable the person having committed an offense to regain a position within society and to change his/her representation of what a “criminal” is.

Trajectories

“The notion of trajectory has been used in varied fields of psychosocial research to better understand **the long-term evolution of various spheres** of an individual’s life. [...] The notion of trajectory thus comprises a **dynamic dimension** through which the person can be situated at the crossroads of external and internal determinants that evolve over time.”

(Brochu et al., 2014, p.37-38)

Desistance & social and community (re)integration

- Crime desistance and social and community (re)integration trajectories are themselves often crossed by other co-occurring problems (Berger et al., 2017; Chen, 2018):
 - Complexity of offenders' trajectories;
 - Multidimensional problems and needs.

To increase the flexibility and integration of the service trajectories by using an intersectoral approach (Brochu et al., 2014)



Development of intersectoral partnership projects

- In Québec, Canada:
 - 16 researchers and 23 partners from public and community-based organization joint forces.
- The objective is:
 - To develop and apply more effective, concerted intervention strategies supported by an intersectoral partnership that would favor crime desistance and social and community (re)integration trajectories of young offenders aged 16 to 35 years old .





Development of intersectoral partnership projects

- Through 6 projects *divided in 3 axes:*
 1. Understand the perceptions of the youth themselves;
 2. Understand the collaboration between the services providers;
 3. Identification of intersectoral action strategies and the implementation of a pilot project.

Intersectoral partnership: best practices

Chestnut Centre, United Kingdom (UK)

- An initiative by the Diversion program of the Ministry of Justice of England and Wales funded over 14 months:
 - Promoting crime desistance and social and community (re)integration of female offenders;
 - Gather under one roof an array of services intended for women who were considered at risk of committing a crime or who had been convicted of doing so to help them among other things, access healthcare, manage their finances, find housing, and beat their addiction.

Organizational hybridization

- Process of constantly adapting behaviors, attitudes, values and roles adopted by the various actors in response to the great complexity of the challenges.

Intersectoral partnership: best practices

Youth Offending Teams, UK

- Partnerships between police officers, probation officers, teachers, health professionals, and youth:
 - Interventions are simultaneous on several fronts to facilitate the crime desistance;
 - Inclusive intersectoral and holistic approach;
 - Success is based on the absence of recidivism.

“(W)hile youth under the supervision of YOTs are provided with wide-ranging social welfare support to target specific criminogenic needs, this support is “conditional” on their compliance with requirements which are intended to responsibilize them to negotiate their own needs in order to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.”

(Gray, 2013: p. 531)

United States

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graph TD
 A((Access)) --- B((Goal Setting))
 A --- C((Continual & Iterative Feedback))
 A --- D((Relationship Maintenance))
 A --- E((Written Agreements))
 B --- C
 C --- D
 D --- E
 E --- B

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# Intersectoral partnership: best practices

## United States

- Bryson et al. (2006) identified six components:

### Environmental factors

The partners acknowledge that they cannot solve the problems alone.

### Process

The partners learn to trust each other, communicate well, become organized, and respect the other partners' skills.

### Governance structure

The operating rules and the procedures are instituted.

### Contingences and constraints

The power games do not jeopardize access to certain resources.

### Outcomes

The collaboration provides mutual gains and, more importantly, helps each partner to recover after a failure.

### Accountability

The partners seek ways to improve their collaboration.

# Intersectoral partnership: best practices

## Court programs, Canada

- In Ontario, court-based, post-booking diversion programs (Dewa et al., 2012):
  - Target people with mental health problems who have been accused or convicted of a crime.

Partnership development, adjustment to broader mandates, and addressing ongoing challenges.



# Intersectoral partnership: best practices

## Court programs, Canada

- In Québec, Programme de traitement de la toxicomanie de la Cour du Québec (PTTCQ):
  - Incorporated in a specialized tribunal for cases of people with addictions who have committed offenses and that allows sentencing to be suspended so the person can undergo treatment (Bernier, 2017);
  - Provided feedback at the end of the process, proposed adjustments and modifications to better achieve goals.

“what a feat it was for this partnership to succeed in such a demanding implementation context given its complexity and the multitude of actors assembled”  
(Plourde et al., 2014, p. 38).



# Intersectoral partnership: best practices

## Court programs, Canada

- In Québec, Programme d'Accompagnement Justice-Santé Mentale (PAJ-SM):
  - An accompaniment in which people subject to judicial control are required to work on themselves and to take responsibility for their treatment as well as for their own crime desistance;
  - Solution to deinstitutionalization .

“offer integrated health and social services, as well as legal services more adapted to the condition of the accused with mental health problems, to propose alternatives to imprisonment” (Provost, 2011, p.1)

## Conclusion

- Favoring crime desistance and social and community (re)integration trajectories **means supporting offenders to allow them to regain their place in society**;
- Crime desistance and social and community (re)integration trajectories **do not depend** solely on the offender's willingness and that society as a whole also participates in facilitating and/or hindering this process;
- To install a culture of dialogue:
  - Openness and accessibility as the best attitudes to adopt to ensure good communication;
  - Respect each other, including the offenders;
  - Keep in mind the initial objective.

# Thank you

Questions ? / Discussion



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